

REMARKS

Claims 1-4 and 6-12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being allegedly obvious over Doshi, U.S. Patent No. 6,144,667 in view of Scott, U.S. Patent No. 7,123,608. The rejection is respectfully traversed with respect to the amended claims. Entry is appropriate as the issues raised by the amendments are those that have been discussed in the last amendment and in the advisory action.

In response to the previous arguments, the advisory action states that the claims have been interpreted such that the hosts can correspond to Scott's VoIP gateways and Doshi's phone company resources. Such an interpretation remains in dispute, but the above amendments address the Examiner's position stated in the advisory action. In each of the independent claims, the hosts are now defined to comprise personal computers. As stated, for example on page 3, lines 1-5, the subject matter as claimed in the independent claims provide convenience to both "individual and enterprise customers" to access their home or office phone connections .

The gateways of Scott can't be properly compared to the claimed personal computers serving as hosts and their associated local phone lines. Scott's VoIP gateways are not personal computers. Nor are the gateways 110 and 130 in Doshi, which are instead phone company resources that interface between an IP network 120 and a phone company network (PSTN). As has been pointed out previously, this is part of a conventional VoIP system, as stated in column 2, lines 3-5: "A VoIP system typically relies on gateways to provide an interface between PSTN and IP networks." It is these phone company interfaces that are strategically located as part of plan to reduce long-distance costs. "By strategically locating gateways, such as gateways 110 and 130, in desired calling areas long distance costs are substantially reduced." C2, L35-37. Doshi provides a VoIP phone company implemented scaled system that "provides all of the necessary tools to build and operate a large distributed carrier network." C9, L18-20. The host that accesses a local phone service via a local phone line to permit sharing of the host's phone line is not properly compared to the gateways of Doshi even when the gateways are distributed. The end effect may be similar (reduction of local phone services) when it is stated very broadly as in the Examiner's summary, but Doshi is directed to an approach that does not leverage individual host resources as required by the claims.

The gateways are not properly compared to hosts that are personal computers. Hosts share their own resources, permitting, for example “peer-to-peer” communications (page 1, lines 6-8), and the hosts can be a home personal computer connected to a local phone service via its local phone line. Other advantages that can be provided the claimed subject matter including that “No hardware, beyond a personal computer with a voice modem, is required for an individual to set up a BPLAP. Only an available phone line and a software download are necessary to become part of, and start using, the system.” P3, L26-29. Hosts share their local company and local phone lines in each of the claims, and Doshi discloses only a phone company provided services without any notion of sharing or hosts. All VoIP services avoid the long distance PSTN phone lines, but the invention leverages local phone lines and services of host computers in a manner not disclosed or suggested in the art.

New claims 13-19 have also been added. These claims further define the systems, methods or devices of the associated claims by requiring the phone lines of the hosts to comprise “home and/or office telephone connections”. This does not correspond and is not suggested by the VoIP gateways in the applied art.

For all of the above reasons, reconsideration and allowance of the instant application is requested. Should the examiner have any questions or concerns that could be resolved by a telephone conference, the examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the below listed number.

Respectfully submitted,

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